

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Apr. 10, 2018
7:35 pm – 11:10 pm

All Bd members present
Public: 70 Staff: 20 Press: 2
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board was in closed session from 6:00 p.m. for student disciplinary cases, employment of employee and possible litigation.

President Ebner called the meeting to order and led the recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

Recognition: The Board recognized the 9 National Merit Scholarship Finalists from York High School.

Public Comment: Three Edison fathers spoke about the current 3 sections of second grade that are predicted to go to two sections of third grade. This will result in a 50% increase in class size (from 18/19 to 27/28). They feel this larger class size will negatively impact their students. They vowed to “Vigorously advocate for smaller class size. One striking point was made by the father of a student who is experiencing hearing loss and has an IEP (individual education plan) to help with this. Despite the teacher having a microphone and the student wearing hearing aides, his standardized test scores have been going down to the ambient noise for 17/18 of his classmates. It will not get any quieter with more students in the room. A fourth parent from Lincoln spoke about how she supported the full Master Facility Plan and wants the referendum to go forward for a vote in November 2018.

Reports and Presentations:

A. Improvement of Reading Instruction: Presented by Dr. Mary Henderson, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Leadership Development and teams from Hawthorne and Emerson. This presentation focused on the Fountas and Pinnell assessment and how to improve each student’s literacy. One of the key performance indicator (KPI) is to have all students reading at grade level by the end of 3rd grade. Less than 70% of students met this level in the fall of 4th grade. Assessment using the Fountas and Pinnell plan uses a 1:1 testing environment, testing in fall, winter and spring and materials in a kit. This plan uses teaching points at each level. Resources include whole and small group and individual instruction. Scores have increased from the fall testing to the winter testing. Spring testing is expected to start in May.

B. Boundaries Study: According to Superintendent Moyer, the reasons for boundary changes were:

- To increase space to accommodate all-day kindergarten
- To balance class sizes across the District
- Possibly provide options for students during various phases of construction, if the community should decide this is what they want.

Matthew Cropper, of Cropper GIS, presented possible boundary changes.

Option A would move a total of 197 students.

- Move the Jackson northern boundary from Madison Street to Adams Street. Those north of Adams would go to Lincoln. Affects 47 students.
- Move all the students north of the Canadian Northern Railway tracks from Lincoln to Hawthorne. Affects 88 students.
- Move all those students west of York Street to Edison from Hawthorne. Affects 62 students.

Option B would impact 255 students.

- Would include all of Option A and move 58 students from Field to Edison – moving Park Street north to Schiller from Clinton to the east of the District.

There is a possibility of a small number of students west of Rte 83 who are currently bussed to Fischer, to be moved to Emerson.

Middle School boundaries would adjust for feeder schools into Middle Schools. With either option, the only change would be 48 (Lincoln to Hawthorne) students who would move from Bryan to Sandburg.

Per Dr. Moyer's memo, no current students would be affected, as they would either have moved on to middle school by the time construction is completed, or could be grandfathered in at their existing schools for a year or two.

This appears to be contingent on the passage of a referendum. It is unclear if the boundary changes would be considered if a referendum is not fielded or passed.

C. Student Fees: The following are the administrative recommendations. (Only the changes are listed.)

- Student fees PreK – 8 (Academic):
 - PreK and K increases by \$12.
 - Grade 1-5 decreases by \$9.
 - Grades 6-8 decreases by \$2.
 - Instrumental music for Gr 6 decreases by \$120.
 - Vocal music for Gr. 6 decreases by \$35.
- Middle School Athletics: 2 tiers to cost 25% of actual cost.

- Boys and Girls cross-country and track - \$30.
- Boys and Girls basketball and volleyball - \$100.

This includes fee waivers for students whose families meet the financial requirements.

- York fees (academic):
 - Algebra 2 increases by \$15 and chromebook fee increases by \$25 (to \$325).
- York Athletics – 4 tiers, families paying 20% of actual cost.
 - Tier 1 Boys & Girls Cross Country, track, tennis and soccer - \$100, a \$25 decrease.
 - Tier 2 Boys and Girls Lacrosse, swimming, water polo, gymnastics and badminton - \$155, a \$5 increase.
 - Tier 3 Boys and Girls volleyball, baseball, softball, special Olympics, pompons, wrestling, football - \$200, a \$25 increase.
 - Tier 4 Boys and Girls basketball, golf, cheerleading, bowling - \$250, a \$50 increase.

This includes fee waivers for students whose families meet the financial requirements.

There will be an annual athletic fee cap of \$400/student.

D. Technology Update: Assistant Superintendent for Innovation and Growth, Mark Cohen, spoke about the pilots of technology in the early grades. Most early grade school teachers preferred the iPad platform for kindergarten and 1st grade, with Chromebook introduction in 2nd grade. This will be the recommendation for the next board meeting.

Director of Technology, Dave Smith, presented. There are close to 11,000 devices in the district.

This year there is 1:1 computing in grades 3-12 with chromebooks taken home in grades 6-12. Next year it is proposed to have grades 2 – 12 take home devices. (iPads 2:1 ratio in kindergarten and 1:1 in 1st grade.)

The proposed higher cost chromebooks (\$325 rather than \$300) has:

- Dual camera
- Faster processor
- Universal USB-C charger

The grade 6-12 tech fee of \$65 covers Chromebook protection plan.

Technology Projects for FY19:

- Upgrade VoIP (Voice over IP) system and replace old phones
- Upgrade servers and storage
- Deploy over 300 student devices

- Deploy 300 staff devices
- UPS battery upgrades
- Decommission K-5 labs

Net technology expenses for FY 18 are slightly over \$2.2 million. The FY19 tentative budget is Almost \$2.2 million.

Superintendent’s Consent Agenda: The Board approved the Personnel report.

Superintendent’s Agenda – Action Item: The Board approved the agreement with Wight and Company for Community Engagement Support. (Support for communication pieces, the community engagement process itself, and refinement of the Master Facility Plan. To be charged at a rate of \$165/hour and not to exceed \$5,000.)

Superintendent’s Communication:

Community Advisory Team (CAT): Melea Smith, Executive Director of Communications/Public Relations, stated that there was an issue in determining membership in CAT. There were 11 individuals in the “below 35 years old” age category and 3 of these individuals were chosen to join the team. Focus groups at individual schools is on hold for now.

At the April 24th Board meeting there will be a Wight presentation for the Board to review.

Board Communications: None

Action on Closed Session Items: The Board approved the following:

A. Student Disciplinary Case: Student “A” was expelled for the rest of this school year, the 2018-2019 school year and the first semester of the 2019-2020 school year. (Mr. McDonough voted “present.”)

B. Resolution authorizing the honorable dismissal of teachers: The Board unanimously approved this motion.

Upcoming Meetings: The next regularly scheduled meetings are Apr. 24 and May 8 at 7:30 p.m. All meetings are at the District 205 Center, second floor.